# WASHINGTON

Another Bill for Reconstructing Georgia.

Treasurer Spinner Favors Senator Morton's Finance Bill.

Secretary Seward Before the Alaska Investigation Committee.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19, 1868.

The Alaska Bribery Investigation. The Alaska bribery investigation was resumed today by the Committee on Public Expenditures in the presence of Messrs. C. T. Hulburd, J. Lawrence Getz, J. M. Broomall, A. Plants and H. P. Bromwell, members of the committee, who have been regular in ttendance from the first day. Secretary of State Seward, J. R. Young, correspondent of the Tribune; F. B. Stranton and J. Smith Scott, of the Evening Seward was the first witness called, and gave his testimony in an easy, ready and jocular style, without being interrogated much by Mr. Hulburd or the other members of the committee. He said, smiling, certain government known as the United States; that in such capacity he negotiated the treaty with Russia for the purchase of Alaska; that \$7,200,000 was the amount agreed to be paid by our government to Russia for the Alaska territory; that that amount was accordingly appro-priated, and that he, as Secretary of State, made the necessary requisition upon the Treasury Department for that sum of money and caused it to be paid over to Baron Stoeckl, the Russian Minister. There us part in the money transaction terminated. He knew of no officer of the government having repassage of the appropriation; if such transactions had occurred they were without his knowledge, procurement or connivance in any way. Governor Robert J. Walker, he said, paid him a and Auska were being discussed in the pub-lic prints, and produced a roll of manuscript coning caborate statements of the value of such proposed acquisitions to the United States. This manutences about Alaska, &c., the great bulk of it having been devoted to what had been termed his project to purchase earthquakes. In saying this the Secretary committed a very broad smile. He thought Walker's letter very interesting, as it placed the proposed acquisitions in a very captivating light, and therefore recommended him to give the enefit of his convincing views to the public. At purchase, which he considered certain of satisfacion. Shortly afterwards Baron Stoecki called upon Mr. Seward and desired to be recommended to some man of note whose ability might be nade available in popularizing Russian America, Mr. Seward, without hesitation, mentioned the name of R. J. Walker as a scholar, writer and prominent public man, and as one who was admirably adapted to promote the object which the Baron had at heart. The Baron went thence, but further of that transpired between the Minister of the Czar and the free lance to whom he was recommended ne Secretary made no revelations. His own humble expenditures as Secretary in the thankless work of making the people know what was good for them to buy amounted to only \$500. He advised the publication of various articles favorable to the treaty, which were published gratuitously in the newspapers. He had Sumner's ten mile speech on Alaska published in pamphlet form, and inflicted on the thousands of that soporific This was the head and offending. As to whether the Committee on Foreign Affairs, members of Congress generally, Charles Sumner or the sensitive newspaper correspondents received any pecuniary thanks from the Russian government or its representatives he was as profoundly ignorant as the king of the Peejee islands. He further voluntarity stated that the opposition to the acquisition of territory discertain people struck him as being allar to the opposition to the acquisition of Louition was shown by the federalists. Remembering the character of that opposition and the letser that had been written at that time in favor of the isition of Louisiana, he despatched one of his gathered facts bearing upon that contest. His clerk went away, performed his duty and returned after incurring an expense amounting in all to sixty dollars. This included all his travelling expenses, hotel bills, &c. This clerk prepared facts from his

columns of the Washington Star.

As Mr. Seward was about to leave the committee room he stopped and, addressing Mr. Hulburd, re-marked that Mr. Bodisco, of the Russian legation, had called upon him and shown him Mr. Hulburd's conrieous letter containing a sort of brief invitation (Seward) that he felt his relations with the Russian Legation were such as to make him feel that he of Mr. Hulburd. Having said this Mr. Seward bowed to the committee and withdrew. Thus it seems Mr. Bodisco will not gratify the public by throwing a ray or two of light upon this interesting inquiry.

Mr. Young was the next witness, and stated his

knowledge of the Alaska transaction to be confined to the current newspaper stories, and that his pri-vate opinion of the whole affair was that none but bogus representatives of the press, if there were any such, received a slice of the Russian sweet cake. He remembered a pussy and importunate individual, claiming the title of colonel, endeavoring to create a sensation by exhibiting the corner of a sheet of manuscript which professed to contain the names of persons who were under large pecuniary obligations paper men, all of which, of course, was legitimate food for gossip and endless speculation. He was satisfied the character of the aforesaid colonel was not above reproach. W. Smith Scott, another of the newspaper fraternity, said his acquaintance with the niterior operations of Bobby Walker simply amounted to a statement he heard from a young man named Noah, correspondent of the Democrat, to the effect that he and his brother, an elder Noah, had received \$2,000 from Bobby—\$1,000 apiece. Mr. Getz, of Fennsylvania, at this branch of the inquiry pricked up his ears curiously and asked the witness
"Do I understand you to say that Noah himself told you this?" Answer.—"Yes, sir." Question.—"That he said himself he had got \$1,000 !" Answer.—"Yes, sir." This announcement created quite a stir, and a subpoena was immediately sent for the Noah last wichess examined. He said he had been retained by Governor Walker as assistant counsel for the Russian government, for which service he had received \$5,000. He did not find it necessary to perform much work. The business itself seemed to be in a favorable was to success when he commenced operations. He merely went to some members and why the appropriation should pass. In this way he had talked with Generals Banks and Schenck; but he knew of no money having been paid to any mem-ber. He had heard that money had been paid to se-cure the passage of the bill, but he did not believe it. A newspaper correspondent, Mr. Painter, of the Phadeiphia Inquirer, told him in conversation that money had been paid for the purpose, but that was all he knew about it. This concinded the investigation for the day, and the committee adjourned till

after the holidays.
On the breezy air of the Capitol came a rumor this morning that a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs opened his troubled bosom to an inquisitorial scribbler and stated that \$550,000 were tavished on all his colleagues but himself. He alone was shut out from the bounty of the Czar, and in revenge he declared with a mighty outh that he would straightway go and expose the nefarious scheme to

the investigating committee. It had adjourned when his virtuous indignation had reacned the effervescing point, but if he lives till Monday an op-

perienced financiers as an evidence that it contains something more than was expected from any one of the multitude of plans that have been prepared.

The objections to its provisions are, in general, not very well taken, and bear evidences of having been

very well taken, and bear evidences of having been strained in order to discover faults. It has been objected to his plan that the national bank currency having a year to run after the government has resumed specie payments before it will be redeemable will undergo a rapid depreciation in value, and would soon drop out of circulation, which would be equivalent to a contraction of about \$300,000,000. That it will be impressible for the government to thought up coin

enough by July, 1871, to redeem \$400,000,000 of

greenbacks. Again, it is urged that the fall in the

price of gold will bring our bonds home from Europe and cause greatly increased sums of gold to flow thither. Most of those who have had a large finan-

cial experience speak very highly of Senator Morton's bill, and think that with a little improvement it will

meet the necessities of the country. General Spin-

ner, Treasurer of the United States, approves of the

provisions of the bill, with one or two exceptions

These defects having been rectified by amend-ments, he believes the plan would be unobjectionable.

The first of these defects, the Treasurer thinks, is the

clause providing that the national banks shall re-

sume the payment of specie six months or a year

after the day on which the government resumes.

They should be required to commence the redemption of their notes simultaneously with the govern-ment. The second defect, in his opinion, is the pro-vision requiring the banks to reserve the interest on

to redeem their outstanding notes in July, 1872. Mr. Spinner thinks that the interest should not be paid

to the banks at all-to be left in their custody-but

should be retained by the government until the time

shall arrive when the gold reserves will be needed

for redemption of national bank currency. The General also thinks that the bill should contain a

The Postal Telegraph Proposition.
The officers of the Western Union Telegraph Com-

pany, who were here last week for the purpose of

defeating Washburne's bill for the construction of a government telegraph, under the direction of the

Post Office Department, between New York and Washington, are to return again after the holiday

recess. They affect to treat the whole project of Washburne with contempt. Last session they suc-

ceeded so well in frightening the Committee on Pos

Offices and Post Roads that they have commenced

the same tactics this winter. The "father of the

House" is not to be put off in this way,

nor will he allow the committee to put his bill quietly to sleep simply because Mr. William Orton asserts that should it become a

law it would entail a useless expense upon the gov-

ernment. Orton seems to have come to the conclu-

sion that Washburne is now in earnest and that it

will require considerable effort to postpone action on

the part of the committee, for this is what he hopes

to do. Besides, Senator Ramsey's bill to incorporate

the United States Postal Telegraph Company and to

establish a postal telegraph system, which was in-

troduced last July, is now pending in the Senate

Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads. Ram

sey, who is chairman of the committee, proposes

to report this bill to the Senate at an early

day and to endeavor to push it through of course.

This, like Washburne's bill, is in opposition to the

Western Union monopoly, and the officers of that

concern will have their attention occupied at both

ends of the Capitol. When Orton was here last

week he had with him the printed proof sheets of a long argument purporting to show that it would be

visions of the Washburne bill, even if it should be-

mittee on Post Offices and Post Roads. It is his purpose to return again after the holiday recess with printed copies of this argument for distribution among the

members of Congress. Orton claims that a majoring of the House committee are against Washburne'

bill, and he hopes to strangle it in committee. If it is reported to the House for action the chances are

among members to encourage competition in tele-graphing as well as in railroads. Orton has orga-

company, is a close corporation, intended to operate

mainly on the committee; but if it is found neces-

sary it will be enlarged and extended. What effect this will have upon the committee remains to be

ever, to give the matter close attention, and any tampering with the committee will be exposed by

Proposed Reorganization of the Customs

sion, the question of reorganizing the customs branch of the Treasury is receiving a good deal of

attention. A bill is now in course of preparation having for its object the rearranging of the salaries

of customs officers. The amount of compensation is to be regulated by the extent of the collection

business done at each port, and collectors, survey, ors, inspectors, &c., are to be arranged in classes

they are stationed. As certain ports in the country

do a comparatively small business in the way of col-

ection, but at which the duties in connection with

the service for the prevention of sinuggling are quite onerous, the collectors of these ports will be

classed along with the more remunerative grades It is said that a bill will soon be introduced to separate St. Louis, Mo., from the collection district of

New Orleans, and constitute it a port of entry.

The Case of the Steamer Metcor.

W. H. Aspinwall, A. A. Low & Brothers, L. W.

Jerome and other prominent merchants of New Yerkt who subscribed funds for building the swift

and powerful steamer Meteor, during the late war, with a view to tendering her to the government for the pursuit of the Alabama and other pirates and

blockade runners, have petitioned Congress for redress from certain grievances which they say they suffered at the hands of the government. It will be

remembered that the Meteor was completed just as the war closed, when of course she could be of no

service to the government. From her peculiar construction she was of little value except

for sale to a foreign belligerent. She was accordingly fitted for sea with the intention of selling her abroad. She was, however, seized by

the government upon suspicion of being fitted out upon an unlawful voyage. Litigation ensued, which lasted over three years, when finally the Supreme

owners of the Meteor. The petitioners ask for in-

such laws by Congress as will protect ship owners better in the disposition of their property. As the

matter involves some legal questions it will be re

ferred to the Judiciary Committee of each house for

The Race for Senatorships.

As the official terms of one-third of the Senate ex-

pire during the present session, it is probable that some of the important members of the present body will be missed from the next. In view of this,

rumor is assigning to some of the unlucky or retiring ones various Cabinet or ministerial places, ac-

Should the result in Maine put Mr. Hamlin in the place of Mr. Morrill, the latter gentleman is thought to be a probable successor to Mr. Evarts. Senator Morgan is thought to be a "good enough Morgan" for the Treasury folio in the event of his defeat at

Albany this winter. Senator Ramsey's name is much

canvassed as Postmaster General should the Legisla-

ture this winter select another man for his position.

Military Order-Transfers of Officers.

A military order has been issued by command of General Grant, in effect that

The transfer or exchange of company officers in regiment will not be made without a previous refe-

a regiment will not be made willout a previous reference to the Adjutant General for the approval of the General-in-Chief. When such transfers or exchanges are sanctioned a copy of the order announcing them will be immediately transmitted to the Adjutant

Branch. Among the numerous subjects on which it is pro-posed to invite legislation during the present ses

ed a small lobby here, which, like the telegraph

ible for the government to carry out the pro-

portunity will again arise.

Decision of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue. Criticisms on Morton's Financial Bill.

The bill submitted by Senator Morton for the re emption of the currency and the resumption of specie payments is undergoing more than the usual allowance of criticism, which is regarded by ex-

The following decision of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue has been received by the Assessor for this district:-

for this district:—

SiR—In reply to yours in regard to a certain real estate and building company loaning money on real estate. I have to say such company is liable to special tax as bankers, as per section seventy-nine, paragraph one, act of June 30, 1864, which says:—"Every person, firm or company having a place of business where money is loaned or advanced upon bonds, stocks, buillon, bitls of exchange, or promissory notes, is regarded as a banker." This comprehends the loaning of money on real estate. As bankers this company should also make a return each month of the amount of capital used for the tax of one half of one-quarter per cent, as provided in section 110, act of June 30, 1888.

Nominations by the President.

The President nominated to the Senate to-day—Charles C. Dane for Collector of Internal Revenue.

The President nominated to the Senate to-day—Charles C. Dane for Collector of Internal Revenue for the Fifth district of Massachusetts; Arthur D. Markley for Collector of Internal Revenue for the Sixth district of Pennsylvania; Percy B. Spear for Collector of Internal Revenue for the Seventh district of Pennsylvania; Wm. H. Russell for Collector of Internal Revenue for the Second district of Connecticut; C. G. Magrue for Collector of Internal Revenue for the Second district of Ohio; W. C. Tulley for Assessor for the Seventh district of Pennsylvania; Robert D. Andrews for Commissioner of the Branch Mini at Denver City; Thos. N. Sellwell, of Indiana, for Minister Resident to Venezueia.

Internal Revenue Appointments.

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The following appointments have been made:—
Gaugers.—George E. Hill, Sixth New York district; Hubert McCiellan, Third ohio district; Edward G. Farmer, Second Rhode Island district.
Storekeepers.—Henry K. Athison, Twenty-fourth Pennsylvania district; J. F. Knorr, George W. McFarland. Jesse Deltro and Frank D. Bingham, Third Pennsylvania district; Levi Templeton, Seventh Ohio district; Joseph C. Keily, Second lowa district; Ismei Kaufmear, Fighth Pennsylvania district.

Assistant Assessors.—C. G. Colgate, Thirty-second New York district, and Whitam R. Ford, Fourteenth New York district, and Whitam R. Ford, Fourteenth New York district.

Amount of fractional currency received from the Printing Bureau of the Treasury Department for the week ending to-day......\$617,100

Receipts of Fractional Currency.

To the Assistant Treasurer at New York. \$100,000
To the Assistant Treasurer at Boston. 100,000
To the Assistant Treasurer at Philadelphia. 100,000
To the Assistant Treasurer at Charleston, S. C. 50,000
To the U. S. Depository at Burfalo. 31,000
To the unational banks and others. 231,000 

Amount of securities held by the Treasurer of the Amount of securities held by the Treasurer of the United States in trust for national banks, \$341,827,900 And for deposits of public moneys ... 38,378,350 National bank currency paid during the week... ... 142,850 Total to date... ... 311,294,086 Mutilated bills returned ... 10,531,745 Insolvent bank notes redeemed ... 900,227 Actual circulation at this date ... 299,862,114 Disposal of Public Lands.

The Commissioner of the General Land Office is in receipt of returns showing the disposal of 27,187 acres of the public domain during the past month a the following local offices:-Traverse City, Mich. 12,541 acres; Detroit, Mich., 4,211 acres; Eau Claire, Wis., 5,872 acres; Marquette, Mich., 4,563 acres. The greater portion of the land was taken by actual settlers under the Homestead law.

Naval Intelligence Commander W. N. Jeffers and Lieutenant C. J. Main have been ordered to duty at the Naval Observatory. Lieutenant Commander Lewis Clark has been ordered to the receiving ship Ohio. Lieutenant Commander C. L. Hunt has been ordered to the naval station at League Island.

Discharge of Treasury Clerks. On the 1st of January a very heavy reduction of th cierical force employed in the Second Auditor's office will occur. A list of about 125 names has been submitted to the Secretary of the Treasury for discharge,

#### THE FORTIETH CONGRESS.

SKNATE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19, 1868. PETITIONS PRESENTED. The PRESIDENT presented the petition of 1,500

poor people of Stockholm, Sweden, asking Congress to adopt some means by which they can be enabled Mr. Pomeroy, (rep.) of Kansas, presented a peti-tion of certain ladies of the State of New York for

equal suffrage. Mr. Absorr, (rep.) of N. C., introduced a bill to

authorize and require a reissue of land scrip in North Carolina. Referred to the Committee on Pub-IRC LANDS.

MODIFICATION OF THE REVENUE LAWS.

Mr. RAMSEY, (rep.) of Minn., presented the petition of certain manufacturers asking the modification of the revenue laws relating to tobacco.

THE DEATH OF THAD STEVENS.

Mr. Kellogg, (rep.) of La., presented resolutions of the Louisiana Legislature, passed last August, in relation to the death of Mr. T. Stevens. Laid on the table and ordered printed.

REASSEMBLING OF THE GEORGIA CONVENTION. Mr. POMEROY introduced a bill to provide for the reassembling of the Constitutional Convention of Georgia, and instructing it to amend the constitution so as to place beyond the possibility of doubt the right of every citizen of the State, black or white, to hold office.

The bill requires the reassembling of the Constitutional Convention within thirty days of its passage, and provides that this amendment shall become a part of the constitution upon its approval by Congress. The ground upon which the majority of the Legislature has recently expelled the colored members was that, the constitution being silent in regard to qualifications for office, the old State law disqualifying colored mem was still in force. His bill was designed to deprive them of that ground.

Mr. Edmunds, (rep.) of Vt., asked him whether he thought that a correct construction of the constitution.

Mr. Pomerov replied that he did not, but that it was, nevertheless, the construction adopted by the majority of the Legislature.

Mr. Pomeroy replied that he did not, but that it was, nevertheless, the construction adopted by the majority of the Legislature.

Mr. Davis, (dem.) of Ky., desired to be informed where the Senate could get the right to pass any such bill.

Mr. Pomeroy put it upon the ground that when the rebelilous States surrendered they surrendered their State rights theory and everything that was in controversy.

Mr. Davis thought that the most extraordinary explanation he had ever heard.

The bill was reierred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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Mr. Harlan, (rep.) of lowa, offered a resolution requesting the Judiciary Committee to report a bill for the reapportionment of Representatives in Con-gress in accordance with section second of the four-teenth amendment. Adopted. gress in accordance with section second of the four-teenth amendment. Adopted.

RENT PAID FOR THE LIBRY PRISON.

Mr. HOWE, (rep.) of Wis., offered a resolution, which was adopted, requesting the President to in-form the Senate whether any rent has been paid for the Libby Frison at Richmond, and to whom and by

the Libby Prison at Richmond, and to whom and by what authority.

Mr. Sumner, (rep.) of Mass., presented a memorial signed by the medical faculty of the Howard University, expressing their approval of the pending bill to reorganize the medical department of the navy. Referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

DUTY ON PIREARNS.

Mr. Spragur, (rep.) of R. L., offered a resolution, which was adopted, directing the Committee on Finance to inquire into the expediency of allowing the importation, free of duty, of firearms imported to be again exported after receiving the American improvement.

Improvement.

THE DUTY ON COPPER.

Mr. CHANDLER, (rep.) of Mich., moved to take up the House bill fixing the duty on copper, &c.

Mr. Whyte, (dem.) of Md., hoped it would not be taken up, because the large interest to be affected by it, which he in part represented, regarded it as a piece of class legislation designed to benefit the few at the expense of the many, and he desired to have their objections to it presented. He had been informed by the chairman of the committee which had had the bill in charge that it would not come before the Senate until the recess, and he hoped it would not.

Would not. Mr. Howard, (rep.) of Mich, earnestly desired to Mr. Howard, (rep.) of Mich, earnestly desired to have the bill acted upon without delay, and said that if it were not acced upon at once orders would go to Europe by telegraph for large quantities of foreign copper, which would come in at a low rate of duty and glut the market.

Mr. Sherman, (rep.) of Ohio, was in favor of the bill, but opposed to taking it up now, because he, as chairman of the Finance Committee, had felt warramted in saying that it would not be acted upon before the holidays, and he did not wish to have any one missed by that assurance.

Mr. Vickers, (dem.) of Md., thought the reason for immediate action given by Mr. Howard was not a good one, because even if orders were sent to Europe for foreign copper not much of it could get into the country during the Christians holidays.

Mr. MORRILL, (rep.) of Vt., did not think, if passed, this bill would give any real protection to the copper interests.

Mr. Chandler was anxious to have the bill taken

this bill would give any real protection to the copper interests.

Mr. Chandler was anxious to have the bill taken up, feeling confident it would be passed to-day.

Mr. Ferry, (rep.) of Conn., said it undoubtedly might be passed to-day if passed through the Senate-after the whip and spur manner of the previous question in the House, but not otherwise. He read a letter from a gentleman in Connecticut, formerly president of the Detroit and Lake Superior Copper Mining Company, saving that the bill, though

pressed ostensibly in the interest of the Lake Superior copper mining region, was really designed for the benefit of speculators in copper and other mining stocks, and that the effect of it would be to destroy the business of smelting from ore. The letter also asserted the necessity of using foreign carbonates in the smelting of native ore. Mr. Ferry said that he hoped the bill would not be taken up now, because he desired to present certain views and statistics on the subject.

Mr. Howard, in reply, read a letter from a Tennessee copper smelter, saying that the bill was an excellent one and was much needed for the protection of the copper interests.

Mr. Ferry ramarked that the letter he had read referred to the Tennessee establishment as one where the smelting was done by charcoal.

After some further discussion the motion to take up the bill was lost by a voic of 22 yeas to 25 mays.

The House bill to extend the benefit of the Homestend act to the orphan children under twenty-one years of age of deceased soldiers was referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

RROPEETY DESTROYED BY THE UNITED STATES

On motion of Mr. Howe the Senate resumed the consideration, as in Committee of the Whole, of the bill for the compensation of Sue Murphy, of Decatur, Ala., for her property, which was destroyed by the linited States army.

Mr. Edmunds opposed the bill, as before, upon the grounds, first, that the property having been destroyed in the enemy's country the United States were under no obligations to pay for it; and second, that if this property were paid for there would soon be many other similar claims, amounting to a very large sum in the aggregate.

Mr. Howe argued in favor of paying the claim on the grounds that open and the congress had renegated the declared.

Mr. Howe argued in favor of paying the claim on the ground that Congress had repeatedly declared by its legislation that the war was not waged against the whole Southern community, including the loyal people, but only against the persons actually engaged in or adding the rebellion.

the whole Southern community, including the loyal people, but only against the persons actually engaged in or aiding the rebellion.

Mr. Yayes (rep.) of ill., inquired whether this claim, if paid, was to be made an exception, or whether all such claims were to be paid?

Mr. Howe replied that it was not an exceptional case, and that it the government of the United States had honesty enough to pay its loyal citizens for their property taken or destroyed by its armies. The property taken or destroyed by its armies. The amount of claims of this class was much exaggerated by their opponents, but, whatever the amount, the government was bound to pay them, or as many of them as it could.

CREDENTIALS OF THE FLORIDA SENATOR.

Mr. NYE, (rep.) of Nev., presented the credentials of Mr. (filbert, Senator elect from Forda, which were laid on the table.

Mf. MORRILL, rep.) of Me., offered a resolution requesting the President to inform the Senate whether any instructions have been given or proceedings insituted to prevent the payment to Laird & Co., builders of the Alabima. The proceeds of the steamer Wren, built by them for the Confederate government, and now in the hands of the Assistant Treasurer of New York, and to secure payment of the proceeds of said steamer to the owners of vessets destroyed by the Alabama. Adopted.

ADJOURNMENT.

On motion of Mr. Howard the Senate adjourned at thirty-five minutes past two P. M.

#### BOOK NOTICES.

DOCTOR JACOB. By M. Bethain Edwards. Robert Brothers, Boston. "Doctor Jacob" is a curious story about an English clergyman with whom all sorts of women fell in ove, and who at the age of sixty was desperately oved by a beautiful girl of eighteen. He is the cer tral figure and, though a peculiar one, not altogether unnatural. This country, as well as England or as unnatural. This country, as well as England or as Germany, where the scenes are laid, can furnish clerical heroes of this sort who have great power and facilities for captivating women, and who are not a bit more scrupulous than Dr. Jacob. We cannot say much for the book. It is on the whole a twaidling, namby-pamby sort of work, and devoid of dramatic force or interest. If the literary taste of the time was not very low such a work would not pay for publishing.

pay for publishing.
GLOVERSON AND HIS SILENT PARTNERS. By Ralph Keeler. Lee & Shepard, Boston.

The author of this book is the individual who ac complished the rather remarkable feat of making the tour of Europe some years ago with \$181. He shows as much temerity in book-making as perseverance in travelling; but it is evident he has more talent in his legs than genius for literature. "Gloverson and His legs than genius for literature. "Gloverson and His Silent Partners" is a tale of San Francisco, Cal., life, and made up of very commonplace materials. California furnishes, undoubtedly, many remarkable individual histories and extraordinary adventures if a man of genius would take hold of them and work them up, and it only snows the lack of ability in this writer that he has not done so. This is another instance of the manis for authorship with those who had better be digging potatoes than aspiring to an honor beyond their reach.

UNDER THE WILLOWS AND OTHER POEMS. By James Russell Lowell. Boston: Fields, Osgood & Co. A neatly printed little volume, on cream tinted paper, of some 275 pages, embracing numerous oems on a variety of subjects from an author who

has fairly earned a name and place in the first rank of the poets of New England. He says:— Though old the thought and off express'd, 'Tis his at last who says it best: I'll try my fortune with the rest. And he has tried it with a flattering success.

ADVENTURES IN THE APACHE COUNTRY. By J. Ross Browne. Harper & Brothers. This is a series of travels in Arizona and vicinity

by the arousing author of "Yuseif, the Land of Thor," and other light works of travel. It has, however, appeared in fragments in Harper's Magazine, and is already familiar to the public. We welcome it in its present form as an addition to our opportunities to enjoy the views and wit to our oppor-tunities to enjoy the views and wit of the author. One thing, however, is a little too patent in the work, and that is the praising of bad silver mines, inducing poor investments on the part of capital-ists who have already been badly bled by the own-ers of some of the mines mentioned.

THE RING AND THE BOOK. By Robert Browning, We were expecting by the title that Mr. Browning had struck a vein on the whiskey ring; but we find that it is all about "Half Rome" and the other half "Tertium quid," &c., the whole in blank verse. Blank! very blank!

Blank! very blank!
THE VON TOODLEBUGS; OR, THE HISTORY OF A VERY
DISTINGUISHED FAMILY. By F. Colburn Adams.
Philadelphia: Claxton, Remsen & Haffelfinger.
All things considered, this novel will enable one o pass away an hour or two without ennui.

MARTRE BELL; THE WAIF OF ELM ISLAND. By Rev. Elijah Kellogg. Boston: Lee & Shepard. 1869. This is a boy's book, well written, well illustrated and well filled with the standard invenile indignation at oppression and wrong and other laudable sentiments. It teaches good lessons in a way to in-sure attentive learners.

The Obsequies of the Late King of Slam-His Son Proclaimed Successor to the Throne—Curious Rites and Ceremonies. A letter from Bangkok gives the following curious details as to the rites and ceremonies observed on

details as to the rites and ceremonies observed on the deeth of the King of Siam:—

We are full of preparations here for the obsequies of his late Majesty. The monarch died on the list of the month, but the final resting place of mortals in this country, as in old Rome, being a cheary urn, the month of March will be on us before the last act in the fameral ceremony shall be completed. His body was bathed the day after his death, dressed out in royal robes and fixed in a sitting posture in the receptacle for containing its ashes, and thus escorted in state to the palace of the Pra-Maha-Prasat, where it was lodged in one of the angles, there to remain ustil all things are ready for its cremation. The vessel in which the remains are thus confined is richly ornamented with precious stones and supported on a pagoda-shaped pyramid sorrounded by over a dozen artificial trees in silver and gold, the whole structure rising to a height of from twelve to fifteen feet. The sign of mourning ordained throughout the kingdom is the shaving of the tinf from the heads of all subjects with the solitary exception of such princes as, being older than the decassed potentate, are permitted to enjoy the privilege of an inviolate topknot. Saturday last was a great day for barbers, it having been named for carrying out this piece of etiquetto under penatty of a severe flogging. I was standing in the vicinity of the royal residence and calculated finat a stream of eighty bath heads on years of the ting the eventual of time this level lasted. On the same occasion the oath of allegiance to the new rulers, which is only required of time this level asted. Details a stream of the production of the province in three hours, the length of time this level to the new rulers, which is only required of time to the new rulers, which is only required of time to the the other feets the fifteen the province and their dependents, was taken.

taken.

Letters of later dates than the preceding report that on the day after the King of Stam's death the assembly of high mandarins proclaimed his son, and, re-establishing the throne of the second monarch, called to the dignity the eldest son of the former occupant of that position. The first Minister has been named tutor to the young sovereign. These events passed off with the utmost tranquetty.

## PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

List of Americans registered at Paris for the week eming December 3:—Mr. and Mrs. George W. Chids. Dr. and Mrs. E. Peterson, Mr. L. S. Curtis, Mr. Heary Huddy and wife, Mr. James V. Ingham, Mr. J. Dundas Lippincott, Mr. John B. Miller, Mr. Asher T. Myer, wife and family, and Mr. Edward B. Tagrart, of Philadelphia. Mr. E. B. Alphott, Mr. John Bonner, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Dittennofer, Mr. Williams and Mrs. R. Wilhers, of New York: Mr. C. D. Hollins, wife and caughter and Mr. Thomas Tweed, of Haltimore; Mr. J. B. Parsons and wife, of Troy, N. V.; Mr. Edwin Lamson and family and Mr. S. D. Warren, of Boston: Mss Hilliard, of Cieveland; Mr. W. Parham, of Chicago; Mr. H. A. Wright and family of Detroit, Mrs. Hilliard, of Cieveland; Mr. W. Parham, of Chicago; Mr. H. A. Wright and family of Detroit, Mrs. H. Storres, of Connecticut; Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Kitchel, of G. S. A.; Mr. William A. Veo, England; Mr. M. Pakennam, Legiorn.

#### MUSICAL REVIEW.

Boards of all kinds, when composed of human timber, are open to many objections, and the Board of Music Trade is no exception to the rule. Every summer, at some watering place, while others are only thinking of enjoyment and disporting in the surf, those arch conspirators meet together to plot against the rights and welfare of unhappy composers and to rivet the chains still closer on their already heavily manacled limbs. Their plan of operation is as follows:—Any composer who has had the manliness or spirit to lift up his voice against the oppression of the publishers is marked out and there is no chance afforded him should he dare to offend any member of this "ring." Every meeting brings new regulations of prices and strengthens the monopoly. This board has the power to crush the hopes of any composer who may have the presumption to publish his own works, for they only exchange music with each other, and all other compositions are carefully kept out of the market. The publishers also persist in forcing into public notice and public patronage such compobe. We have often heard customers, both in this city and in the West, repeatedly ask for certain pieces which were real geins, and the answer each time has been, "Those works are out of print at present and out of fashion also, but here is some thing which is all the rage." Pretty custodians of art those people are! At the time the fault does not always lie time the fault does not always lie with the publisher. Were it not for the few homorable exceptions, who reflect the highest credit on the musical profession, there would be little to say in favor of composers. A large proportion of them are deserving of no mercy or defence, on account of their sneaking and treacherous manner of transacting business with publishers, and if the latter beat them at their own game the verdict of all probably will be "served them right." But it is not of such we speak. We only propose to defend the homorable and meritorious composer, who is actuated by a love of art, as well as his own interests, and who is cheated out of the fruit of his labor by a rapacious publisher. There are evils on both sides, and while we demonnee monopoly and foul play in the publisher we unhesitatingly oppose unjust demands, breach of contract and double dealing on the part of the composer. Many of the latter species have a black mark after their names in the books of half the music stores in this country. But this is no reason why respectable composers should be placed in the same category.

Louis bachauer & Co., Fourteenth street, publish the following:—

"Caprice Elegante," William M. Shumacher. One

in the books of half the music stores in this country. But this is no reason why respectable composers should be piaced in the same category.

Louis Duchauer & Co., Fourteenth street, publish the following:—

"Caprice Eligante." William M. Shumacher. One of the most brilliant concert pieces we have seen for a long time from the pen of a New York musician. It is an excellent study besties. A number of airy and graceful passages in the introduction give a favorable idea of the following movements. The three first movements are of the same light, fluttering character, but are well constructed and varied in treatment. A poupous, heavily chorded movement is next introduced, and is followed by the same theme with the chords resolved into arpergii. The fignie is exceedingly effective.

"Amiano la vita" canzone. A. Randegger. An exquisite little thing, full of spirit and flowing melody.

"Non T'Amo." romanza. Tito Mattel. A very handisome edition of this rival of "Non e Ver." The romance is beautiful.

The same house has also ready for publication all the gens from "Perichole," "Fleur de Thé" and "L'(Ell Creve," the three operas which are next on the table with both opera boughe companies.

Henry Litoli"'s Verlag, Union square, a branch of a Brunswick firm, publishes a very handsome edition of Mozart's sonatas and the operas of Idomeness and Titus and Rossinis" Barber of Seville." It is a standard edition and well gotten up.

"Tremsine publishes the following:—

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"Society's Spasm." comic song. E. Webb, Not worth noticing, and it is a pity that Miss Lydia Thompson should sing such a trashy affair.

"It is Not Your Business Why," ballad. A. Cull. Worse than the preceding, and that is bad enough.

"I Don't Know How They Do It, but They Do." H. Tucker. We can only say of Mr. Tucker's song, we don't know why he should thus afflict the publisher, but he has done if in this instance.

"It will Not Do to Tell." Ballad. H. P. Danks, Very uninteresting and by

one to be very effective.

"So far, so far away," song; Richard Hoffman. This bears the stamp of the 'secomplished musician. It is one of the best songs we have ever come across in our review and both melody and accompaniment are admirably suited to each other.

"My Native Home:" words by John Brougham, music by Adeline Mario-Celli. An exquisite melody which cannot fail to be a constant favorite with the public. It is sung by Mrs. Barney Williams.

"Reverie Poétque." William Mason. One of those attractive works in which the charming arpeggio accompaniment wreathes itself around the melody, which illustrates the beautiful lines of Victor Hugo' "Jetais scal prés des flots. The low murantre is well illustrated in this piece.

William A. Pond & Co. publish the following:—

"Spirit of Burlesque." containing some of the most popular of the "ixion" and other burlesque songs. "Beautiful Belis" and "The Bell Goes a Ringing for Sarah" are the two first numbers. They are the favorites of the Lydia Thompson troupe.

"Sunflower Mazurka:" J. N. Pattison, from the publication of Hempsted, of Milwankee. It is always a pleasure to meet with the works of this popular composer, especially his mazurkas, which are unrivalled. The present one has a simple, qualnt introduction, which leads to a characteristic theme.

unrivalled. The present one has a simple, quaint introduction, which leads to a characteristic theme. The entire composition will compare favorably with any of Mr. Pattison's other works.

"Geneviere Polka Redowa;" arranged by D. Angelo. This is the Tyrollenne of the opera in the very simplest form. It would be better if the arranger had adhered more closely to the original score.

"Juanita Mazurka;" Bonbier. One of the ordinary kind of mazurkas, beither better nor worse than the general run of compositions of this kind.

"O mon cher amant," the favorite ballad from "La Perichole," one of Offenbach's latest operas. A very pretty song, suspiciously like an English ballad whose name we cannot at present call to mind. It can be made as great a favorite as the "Dies Lau."

"The Ship's on the Bay." contraite song; words by Arthur Matherson, music by W. K. Bassford. This song was written for Miss Florence Rice on the eve of her departure for Earope. It is a most brauffful composition, both in music and words, and is susceptible of being rendered with the utmost feeling. "Ardit's Pictassi Waltz," transcribed by J. Lepbach. If any one wishes to get Arditi's best waltz, in the most brilliant and effective form in which it could be placed, they will find it in this admirable transcription by Leybach.

"Love in May," Oesten. This composer is one of the best in Germany for small fingers. His works are always attractive and facile. The present one is a good specimen.

"Genevieve Galop;" D. Angelo. A dashing selection from the ballet music of this favorite opera. The arranger has closely adhered to the score this time.

Charles Bunce, of Brooklyn, publishes the followers.

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Charles Bunce, of Brooklyn, publishes the following:—
"Quadrilles and Galop" founded on themes from "Genevieve de Brabant." The Quadrilles are arranged by Mr. John M. Loretz. Jr., and show the practised hand of a musician in the skilful dovelating of a bouquet of melodies from the opera in each figure. The arrangement reflects the more credit on Mr. Loretz considering the difficulty of making anything out of Offenbach's music. The Galop by A. Cortada comprises two of the most dashing galop themes in the opera, but shows either carelessness or a want of ability to dress them up in an acceptable form. Why, besides, not retain the original key?
"Manibood's Dream," ballad; C. H. Smith.

ool's Dream," balled; C. W. Smith.

### MARGINS DE LA VALETTE, FRENCH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AF-A cable telegram published in the HENALD of yes-

terday appointed that the Marquis de la Valette had been appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs in place of M. Moustier, who has been appointed Sena-tor. The new Minister was born at Senils, France, on the 25th of November, 1806. In 1837 he entered on the 25th of November, 1806. In 1837 he entered the diplomatic service under Louis Philippe as serveiary to the Embassy at Stockholm; 1841 was Consul General at Alexandria; 1846. Minister Plenipotentiary at Hesse Cassel, and in 1851 Envoy Extraordinary at Constantinople. On the 23d of June, 1883, the Marquis was appointed a Senator of France; in 1860 was again appointed Minister to Constantinople and in 1861 became Minister to Rong. In March, 1863, he became Minister of the Interior, in place of M. Boudet, but soon gave way to M. Pinard. M. de la Valette is a grand officer of the Legion of Honor. The French papers claim that his promotion to the position of Minister of Fereign Affairs is a condrmation of the liberal and pacific policy of the Embergr.

## CITY POLITICS.

The Rush for Office-The Vacancies-The Superior Court-A New Vacancy-Tammany Striking for the Patronage-The Police Justiceship of the Fourth District-The United States District Attorneyship.
That "there is no rest for the wicked" is a phrase

so often quoted that it, like many another apt and forcible admonition, has never received the necessary consideration so long as the said wicked have a "leg to stand on." Politics and the subsidiary check and balances, like the pendulum of a clock, must be ever kept going to keep the works and main springs of the interior mechanism of the "ring" in healthy and good time-keeping condition. Therefore in political mechanism, as in that of horology, whenever the political slate is set to time it tells to a certainty who is the man for the time at any particular juncture. But the duty of setting and regulating the political horologue that indicates the offices and the men for the offices, without setting aside the candidates that may be alternating on the disc-not of the celestial, but of the political body-being confined to a chosen few, times correctly, no matter how seemingly apparent they may be at first sight. This frequently leads to mistakes and a confounding or misplacing of candi dates, annoying in many aspects of the case, particularly to those who had expected to "make a case out of it," and who go in to win regardless of expense and then don't. "false lights" are a sort of political ionis fatious that lures the unfortunate victim of office on the brain" to his own overthrow. Daz zied by the goal or "ghoul" before him and assured by those who are backing his opponent that as is on

by those who are backing his opponent that he is on the inside track, he rushes madly on until the very day of the contest, when he is weighed in the balance with his rival and found wanting. It is only then that the scales fail from his eyes and he finds that he has been duned all through, and that he was never in fact counted in the race at all. The faile of whole holocausts of victims to the office seeking manda has no effect in deterring crowds of votaries who will rush to the sacrificial fane for immolation, blinded to the fate that awaits them, whenever an office is to be ran for.

Even now, with the holidays upon us, when it might be supposed there would be a spell of rest taken, and when the aspirants for whatever offices are again vacant would had and let the only man for the times—old Santa Claus—come in and depart in his own time-honored way, scattering his gifts at thousands of hearthstones, these political Ahasueruses are ever on the road, in season and out of season, restless and grasping after some unattainable object.

The successful candidates in the late campaign are, however, differently placed from those who are but seeking office. The former can reloice like him who puteth off his armor. They have achieved the victory, and therefore we see them in a different position from those who are but putting their armor on. They are about celebrating the holidays in rejoleings over their successes. Our Governor elect, our Mayor elect and Dick O'Gorman—'the's elected'—to boot are each in the field with invitations to all to whom their presents send greeting to see them at their homes on evenings specified for the purpose. The Big Judge, he is also around seeing the boys, wherever he may happen to meet them, diffusing his "smiles" irrespective of time and place, and in utter contempt of his friend King Kennedy, or any other played out potentate of that lik, and who would make him smile on the wrong side of the mouth if he could. The Judge's friends need no invitations; let any of them but drop in upon

not be so severely feit as it might have otherwise been.

The sad occurrence of Friday evening—the unexpected death of Judge Robertson, the late presiding Judge of the Superior Court—leaves another vacancy on the bench of the Superior Court in addition to that above referred to by the acceptance of the District Attorneyship by Judge Garvin. The appointment to this vacancy is within the patronage of the Governor de Ancto, and does not revert to the Governor dect, unless, indeed, Governor Fenton impolitically exercised his privilege in the matter. The returing Governor, it is runnived, is coqueting with democratic members of the lower house of the Legislature in the matter of his running for the Senatorship. Here is a chance which gives him great advantage over his adversary, Senator Morgan, and if he uses it rightly may result in his success. Tammany has so many hongry cravers after office tugging at her that she sometimes has to resort to queer shifts to satisfy them all. If Tammany is not a pelican of the wilderness, drawing blood from her own breast to feed her young, she "bleeds" pretty freely in other ways to secure the patronage of all the offices she can by his means reach, and it is very likely that between the Saint and Fenton there may be a bargain struck through which the saint will get the disposal of the office in question, and Fenton will take his chance as to the Saint's interposition in his behalf with the democrats in the Legislature.

Tammany thus gets adultional patronage, but of course she will be at once beset by a new set of cali-

as to the Saint's interposition in his behalf with the democrats in the Legislature.

Tammany thus gets additional patronage, but of course she will be at once beset by a new set of call-didates. There was some trouble over the question of the succession to Judge Garvin, and it was beginning to leak out that Friedman was not so sure of the place as was at first supposed. If there were no new candidates to arise for the new vacancy, and as there were but two for Judge Garvin's place, the thing would be easily settled, but or course it isn't in numan nature—democratic especially—not to yearn for the fiesh pots whenever there is a "show." With the falling into Tammany's hands of this new patronage there will arise a dozen or two of aspirants, so that the Saint will have something to do to keep peace among his more immediate followers. But Peter Bismarck will be found equal to the occasion, as he has been at more serious and important epochs than any likely to arise for a long time to come or likely to arise from any contest or rival aspirants for the vacancies on the bench of the Superior Court.

to the occasion, as he has been at more serious and important epochs than any inkely to arise for a long time to come or likely to arise from any contest of rival aspirants for the vacancies on the bench of the Superior Court.

THE FOURTH DISTRICT JUDGESHIP.

It is now pretty clear that the Big Judge and Register elect, Michael Connolly, will not resign the Justiceship of the Yorkville district immediately. There are a great number of candidates for the office, and consequently a certainty of exciting, by the appointment of any one of them, great dissatisfaction among the host of rejected ones. This fact has, been weighed in council and the Big Judge, nothing loth, has been directed to hold on to the office till after the adjournment of the Legasiature, when he small resign, and the Governor will them—no confirmation being necessary—appoint a successor. In addition to the candidates previously referred to in these columns as running for the office, a new man springs into prominence in the person of Air. Henry, Murray, a young politician of some influence and note in the Twenty-second ward. Mr. John Masterson, Mr. William Hitchman and Joseph Maguire are also candidates for the office.

THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT ATTOINEYSHIP.

Among the federal offices to be filled in this city after the inauguration of deneral Grant as Presidenty sought after by a whole host of candidates as that of Cunted States District Attorney. We have heresoforce given the names of about a dozen legal gentlemen, aspirants for the office, but the impority of these have either given up the chase or are very quietly resting on their oars, wisely concluding that General Grant will not be accelerated in his appointment to office by any pressure of theirs. In connection with the claturs put forward by a candidate for the office men the district, and those put forward for continuation in the office ov the present United States District Attorney in this district, wrote to Mr. Boker on the subject and pointed out to him the record of a resolution s

## THE MAGNOLIA RACES AT MOBILE.

MOBILE, Ala., Dec. 19, 1888. Te-day was the third day of the Magnetta Jockey